



# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

January 2013

## December lunch at Louis' Basque Corner

[SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/](http://SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/)

### Inside this issue:

Prez Meanderings	2
Bavarian World Lunch	2
2012 SNU Highlights	3
Family Traditions	4



This was the first time the SNU has had lunch at Louis' Basque Corner in Reno and I think everyone agrees that it won't be the last. The food and service were great. Although it is a little difficult to do much visiting at the lunches we did manage to share Christmas plans and other upcoming activities. Right after the lunch, Baxter and Marlene headed to Calistoga to house and dog sit for one of their kids.

Barney and Mary Beth will be going to the Rose Parade rally at the end of December. We look forward to hearing all about that experience. It looks like Bob and Cecilia will be on the road most of 2013. They plan on participating in a couple of WBCCI Caravans as well as the International Rally and other Unit and Region rallies. The rest of us – Jerry & Dyan, Randy, Mike & Cindy, and Bryan and Diane will be spending Christmas with family and friends. We all look forward to a great year in 2013, one that includes participating lots of SNU rallies and other Airstream outings.



### Rally and events schedule

Click on a link  
below for details

- ◆ [January 19, 2013  
Bavarian World,  
Reno, NV](#)
- ◆ [February 16  
Overland in  
Gardnerville, NV](#)
- ◆ [March 21st,  
Lahontan River  
Spr. NV](#)
- ◆ [April 8th, Fort  
Sage, Doyle, CA](#)

## Bavarian World Brunch - Jan. 19th

The first SNU lunch of 2013 will be at Bavarian World in Reno on Saturday January 19, 2013. Due to popular request, this brunch will be at 10:30 am so that we can enjoy the breakfast menu. Menu items include German pancakes, Alpine Breakfast platter and the Bavarian breakfast platter. Bavarian World is on the corner of 4th and Valley Rd. Please rsvp to the SNU at [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org) or call 775 972 5011 no later than December 10, 2012.



## Prez Meanderings

We have been traveling this December with our Airstream. We went to Albuquerque then to San Pedro and then home stopping in Bakersfield to see Doris' daughter. So I thought I would comment on some of my observation about winter camping. Personally I don't recommend it.

First there is the Weather: Cold makes trailer setup and departure preparations painful when temperatures are freezing or below especially with a wind. It took about twenty miles for my fingers to thaw after we departed Albuquerque where the temperatures had been in the low 20s every night we were there. Precipitation can be a problem particularly if it is snow and it accumulates on the highway to form slippery packed snow. I avoid those conditions because I don't know how a trailer would perform. I can barely handle a four wheel vehicle in those conditions. Rain is usually manageable as long as it doesn't freeze. However, rain is often accompanied by fog in the winter which can be a significant hazard. I avoid traveling at night for fear of freezing water on the road. Ice is hard enough to see in the day light. At night when temperatures drop after a rainy day the formation of ice patches is almost assured. Then there is the challenge of trying to determine what the road conditions actually are from the reports issued by the state Departments of Transportation. If there are chain-up restrictions, that is a definite no-go. It is interpreting the descriptions of other conditions such as "winter driving conditions – use caution." Does that mean it is blizzard snow conditions making visibility a problem but not sticking on the road? The most annoying weather encountered was at home. We arrived with about an hour of daylight left and the temperature below freezing. After a tiring 8 hour day driving, I had to quickly winterize the trailer and drain the tanks. Of course, I got my gloves wet and it felt like my fingers were frozen. I left the heater on in the trailer and finished unloading the next day.



Continued on page 4

Trailer reaction to the Weather: Our first stop after departing Minden was Pahrump where we were exposed to another reminder of the cold, a warning not to leave our water hose connected over night for fear of it freezing and bursting. We received this warning at every stop until we reached southern California. Heating the trailer is also a challenge. In Albuquerque where the temperature only climbed to the high 40s during the day and low 20s at night

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the January lunch at Bavarian World  
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html>

## What's in a Name?

Safari, Ambassador, Sport, Excella, Classic, Trade Wind, CCD, and on and on. These are all brand names used by Airstream. Over the years Airstream has been inconsistent in the use of names and whether they refer to a model of Airstream or a trim package. Which factory produced the Airstream creates another set of inconsistencies. Prior to the 1980's the name of the type of Airstream (Bambi, Overlander, etc) was more consistent and related to the length of the trailer. After 1980 names referred more to a trim package and although many of the old Airstream names were used, they no longer clearly identify the length of trailer. Samples of the pre-1980 names that relate to the length of the Airstream include the Bambi and Cruisette which range in length from 16 to 19 ft, the Globetrotter, 19 to 21 ft, the Safari, 22 to 23 ft and the Sovereign at 30 to 31 ft. Length is another element that is not clearly defined and it can depend on how the Airstream is measured. Modern Safari's provide a good example. The Safari name now relates to a trim package rather than a model. Safari's now range in length from 17 to 31 ft. Safari's even have a narrow body sport model and a model with a slide-out. Trim packages often relate to the cost of the the Airstream. The more expensive models usually have a classic trim package or one of the more recent designer model interiors. Currently some of the names in use for trim packages include the Sport, Flying Cloud, International, Classic, and Eddie Bauer. Then you have the sub-categories like the International Signature or the International Serenity. Bottom line, the names are just a label. The label may give you a hint about the Airstream's design and size but when it comes right down to it, it's whatever suits you best. What will encourage you to get out and enjoy traveling, rallies, and other adventures on your own or better yet, with fellow Airstreamers.



Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line! [Click Here](#)

## Upcoming Events for 2013

Overland, Gardnerville, NV Saturday February 16, 2013	Obsidian Dome Thursday August 8 – Sunday 11, 2013
Lahontan, Silver Springs, NV Thursday March 21 – Sunday 24, 2013	Cantaloupe Festival, Fallon, NV Thursday Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2013
Ft Sage, Doyle, CA Thursday April 18 – Sunday 21, 2013	Crocker, Beckwourth, CA Thursday October 10 – 13, 2013
Rocky Point Eagle Lake, CA Thursday May 16 – Sunday 19, 2013	Carolina Kitchen, Sparks, NV Saturday November 16, 2013
Green Creek, CA Thursday June 20 – Sunday 23, 2013	Death Valley Mesquite Campground Thursday November
Weed Heights, Yerington, NV Thursday July 18 – Sunday 21, 2013	Jake's Restaurant, Fernley, NV Saturday December 14, 2013

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## Achievements & Highlights of SNU in 2012

*2012 was a great year for the SNU. We held rallies in some of our favorite places, tried some new activities, met some new people, and most of all, had a lot of fun. Some of the highlights of 2012 included:*

- ◇ All five of the SNU new members participated in or visited at least one SNU rally in 2012. Several participated two or more rallies or luncheons.
- ◇ A highlight of 2012 was the rally in Fallon at the Cantaloupe Festival. Eight SNU members attended. In addition to enjoying the Festival and the Junior Rodeo, SNU members Dean and Shelly Fischer had a special pink flamingo first birthday party for their granddaughter, Jessilyn.
- ◇ Rally highlights included: March at Mason Valley – unveiling of Doris's latest pink flamingos, April at Pyramid Lake – surprise visit from Don and Gail in their new Airstream & fly over by Bruce & Kathy, May at Rocky Point – viewing a lunar eclipse of the sun, June at Crocker – unveiling of Randy and Vicki's latest kinetic art piece, July at Weed Heights – enjoying green trees & hook-ups for air conditioning, August at Obsidian – special Friday and Saturday breakfasts & a visit from a bear, September in Fallon – Enjoying the Annual Fallon Cantaloupe Festival, October at Lahontan – tried out the structured campground at beach 7.
- ◇ A photo of the participants of the 2012 SNU rally at Obsidian Dome was published in the "Club Scenes" of the March issue of the Blue Beret. The SNU photos previously published as a cover for the Blue Beret were used again in the February 2012 issue as part of the new members Valentines Day announcement.
- ◇ SNU member Don Williams has been elected membership chair for Region 12. SNU affiliate member, Bob Stansbury was elected Region 12 first VP and his wife Cecilia was elected WBCCI recording secretary.

*For the complete list of the 2012 highlights check the link in this newsletter.*

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## New Year Resolution

The beginning of a new year is a good time to review, reflect, and to plan for the future, The SNU encourages you to be sure and include at least one rally in your plans for 2013. The SNU creates it's rally schedule a year in advance so that people will have it in plenty of time to include rallies their own schedules. The rally schedule is available in numerous places. It is a standard part of every newsletter. It is on the SNU website. A copy of the rally schedule has been mailed to most SNU members. In particular, keep in mind our September rally at the Cantaloupe Festival in Fallon. We had such a great time last year that we are doing it again in 2013. This rally needs an rsvp and pre-payment to the SNU so include it in your planning now. Details will be in future SNU newsletters. The best part of rallies is the people. We sincerely hope all SNU members, as well as friends and guests will plan on joining us at rallies in 2013.

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For information on upcoming rallies check this website:  
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-events/docs/1-rallyschedule.html>

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## Prez Wheels cont.

I was refilling a propane tank every three to four days setting the thermostat at 68 when we were up an 55 when sleeping or gone. Fortunately the RV Park at Kirtland Air Force Base where we were staying also sold propane at a very reasonable rate.



Road Hazards (not related winter): Other drivers that don't consider that it takes a little longer to stop the combination of truck and trailer and therefore we allow a larger space between vehicles on the highway. Big cities seem to have a problem keeping their roads repaired. I passed through three on this trip, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and the Los Angeles basin communities. It seems that as you approach spaghetti bowl of highway off ramps and on ramps where you must make a decision the road deteriorates. Not only are you faced with a deciding where your off ramp is you have to determine if the road has suddenly turned into a shock absorber test track or your vehicle is coming apart. It somewhat similar to flying combat, just when you roll-in on you target area and trying to pick out your specific target they start shooting at you.

These road corrugations come in many variations. There are the regular interval pot holes like very close flax. There are the closely and regularly spaced ridges that feel like a machine gun. Today I encountered a new road surface configuration. It extended for about a mile and felt like I was driving a monster truck with only slightly rounded square wheels. Of course, the ultimate road hazard that has already taken it toll on Randy and Vickie's trailer – the dreaded shredded semi tire tread. I avoided similar fate when the semi I was preparing to pass pulled into my lane in front of me to avoid hitting a large tread piece in his lane. If I go to the Hobo Rally in Blythe the end of January I'll go through it all again.

*Prez Wheels*



## Following Family Tradition

*Laura Funk*

Laura is a new member of the SNU. The following is from things she posted on Airforums

My grandparents were avid streamers most of their adult lives. Though their home was in West Virginia, they traveled most of the year in their AS, residing in FL for a few months and in Mexico each year. When they passed, all I wanted was their AS. Unfortunately my mom found that she could get some cash for the rig - so I never saw it again..... So, 20 yrs later I finally got mine - all because of the positive influence of my grandparents.



My grandmother, though being in the forefront of alternative medicine, was a sun worshiper - which is surprising .... When she was young, her bathrobe caught fire on the furnace in one of their airstreams. My grandfather heard her screaming, got her out and rolled her down the hill. She suffered third degree burns on 60% of her body. Spent months in the hospital - horrific. She had my grandfather apply straight Aloe on her burns - and always thought it saved her. Supposedly, the doctors said that it couldn't hurt.....

Though few of my grandparents belongings made it to me - there are four rubber-maid containers of remember rants - old (really old) photo albums and some small nick-nacks. I spent about four hours going quickly through them this weekend and found some really cool items: lots of pictures of them caravanning through Central America, and lots of ralley's, an old international window sticker, and two of their "past presidents" badges. But the coolest item was a journal/log of their travels in Central America - with little notes of their dealing with locals, border patrols, overnight stays and lots of references to who was hosting the evening cocktails! I can tell by the photos and log (which I had never even seen previously) that they really loved traveling in their AS and it gave me a completely different insight to their lives. So cool.

The picture of my grandparents together is exactly how I remember them. Loving life! Happy! Social! I did find the badges they are wearing and am trying to think of a good way to display them in my airstream. I think they used to pin them on the curtain....."



[Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu](http://Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu)

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